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On this side of the Atlantic there was at first an overwhelming sentiment in favor of the revolutionary movement. Democratic societies rapidly sprang up, whose promoters, influenced by the wave of excitement, proposed to see in America herself a movement toward monarchy and aristocracy which it was their duty to combat. It is interesting to follow this sentiment by means of the large number of quotations and selections which Professor Hazen supplies, and to watch on the one hand the Republicans finding excuses for the increasing disturbance in France, while Federalists like John Adams and Knox grew more and more disgusted. This indeed is the great merit of the book before us. Historians of the United States have often described the feelings aroused in this country by the French Revolution; it has remained for Professor Hazen to place before us the materials on which these descriptions are based. In this way a great service has been done to those of us who have not access to the original writings and who yet desire to read the opinions of contemporary Americans at home and abroad. The selections given are extensive and are accompanied by suggestive comments by the author. There is also a bibliography of his sources of information, and while we must confess that some of the selections given are tiresome reading this in no way interferes with the value of the book as a work of reference.

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English Local Government of To-Day. By MILO R. MALTBIE, Ph. D. Columbia University Studies. Vol. IX, No. 1. Pp. 287. Price, \$2.00. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1897.

The local organization of England has undergone such important changes during the present century that this careful study of the existing system of local administration in England meets an urgent need. As was pointed out in a previous number of the ANNALS,* the old system of local autonomy has been essentially modified by the introduction of a strong and far-reaching central control so that the English organization now presents certain important points of similarity with the systems in vogue on the Continent. In the monograph under review, Dr. Maltbie traces the growth and extension of this new central control and makes a critical examination of its results as compared with those of the old method of organization. Beginning with the new poor-law administration organized in 1834

* "Administrative Centralization and Decentralization in England." ANNALS, Vol. x, p. 187. September, 1897.

and considering successively the administration of the laws regulating health, police and elementary education, the author makes it clear why a central control became necessary and how this control has been exercised, first, by the legislative, and later by the administrative authorities. Local independence, in each of these branches of administrative activity, had resulted unfavorably, owing to the absence of a harmonious plan, a great waste of energy and corresponding loss in efficiency. The establishment of a central administrative control has produced uniformity, economy and a considerable increase in efficiency. In addition there has been of recent years a decided improvement in the legislative treatment of local organization. Formerly, special or local acts altering the organization of particular local bodies were frequent and, in many cases, injudicious. Under the new system such special bills are submitted to the approval of the central Local Government Board, and the latter, by virtue of its superior insight and experience, exercises a highly beneficial influence on the character of such legislation. The practice of issuing "provisional orders," *i.e.*, permission granted by the Local Government Board and approved by Parliament to make some change in the organization of particular local bodies, has also proved to be an excellent one. As to the relative advantages of a control exercised by Parliament over the local organization and one exercised by the Local Government Board the author declares decidedly in favor of the latter, that is, the administrative control. No legislative body can secure the required information nor exercise the same constant and continuous supervision that may easily be maintained by a permanently organized administrative body. Such are the general conclusions drawn by the author, and they are substantiated by such a thorough study of the period since 1834 that they may be regarded as entirely trustworthy.

It is perhaps to be regretted that the subject of *local* government has been treated almost exclusively from the standpoint of the *central* authorities and that so little attention has been paid to the local side of the new organization. It is also true that the author has restricted himself somewhat severely to the administrative side of the question and has not devoted any considerable attention to the political aspects of the present system. These defects, however, do not detract from the value of the author's conclusions. His treatment of the general theory of administrative control is admirable and the work taken as a whole forms a valuable description of the existing relations between the local and the central administrative organs in England.

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